

## Improving Lives Select Commission Chair's Briefing for the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2026

### Items covered since the last update meeting:-

- Improving Lives held its meeting on 28th April, 2026 and the following items were considered:-

- Corporate Parenting Partnership Board Update – Members received a verbal update following the Corporate Parenting Partnership Board meeting held on 24th March, 2026.

Members welcomed the update and the positive information that was shared.

- Corporate Parenting Partnership Board Annual Report 2024-2025 – Members considered the progress made by Corporate Parenting Partnership Board in 2025 and noted the areas of focus for 2026.

Members discussed at length and received clarification from officers to answer their many questions. As a result a further two recommendations sought to seek a breakdown of the Children in Care 2025 placement numbers and suggested the Cabinet Member ask the LGA's Children and Families Committee if they were aware of any work being undertaken to change the narrative surrounding children in care and care leavers and how it could be positively reframed to challenge stigma and dispel common myths.

- Child Exploitation Strategy Update – Members welcomed this report and noted the progress made against the Child Exploitation Strategy 2024-29.

Members questioned and challenged the content at length and the sought assurance how the four priorities in the Child Exploitation Strategy 2024-29 would be delivered.

As a result further recommendations were suggested to consider the work taking in the primary sector around the work on healthy relationships, sharing detail with Community Safety and Environmental Health about the risks of exploitation associated with non-licensed food premises and to consider how to equip non-traditional partners and contractors to identify and respond to child exploitation now and in the future.

## Work Programme 2025-26 Updates:-

- Children's Capital of Culture Workshop - Impact and Legacy for Children and Young People

A workshop took place on Tuesday, 21st April, 2026 looking at the Impact and Legacy for Children and Young People following the Children's Capital of Culture. An invitation was also extended to Improving Places Select Commission for any interested Members to attend.

Officers provided Members with results of the interim evaluation, showed a short film and followed with a workshop giving members the chance to share their experiences in facilitated groups focused on:-

- Member engagement - what worked well, what could be better.
- Ward experience - what took place in their wards, what worked well, what could be better.

Members welcomed the opportunity to discuss at length the evaluation process for the Children's Capital of Culture and fed back their own experiences which would be incorporated into the results and included in the final evaluation report.

- Children and Young People's Partnership Board

At its meeting on 17th March, 2026 Improving Lives Children agreed to a request by the Young People's Partnership Board to attend their next meeting on 28th April, 2026 to be part of a pre-decision scrutiny session on their new draft strategy and their priorities moving forward.

This session provided a great opportunity to hear directly from the young people on the priorities they had identified and the rationale, the potential impact and outcome measures and the presentation of the strategy itself much the same way pre-decision scrutiny had worked before.

The Members that volunteered to attend found the process welcoming and rewarding. The presentation on the strategy by the young people was inspirational as they aspired to improve the lives of young people in Rotherham.

Members volunteered several suggestions on how the strategy may be improved before it was presented to Cabinet for approval. The suggestions included adding a little more detail to some of the statistics to make them more meaningful for impact, identification of where support was available and expansion of some information in the narrative.

The Children and Young People's Partnership welcomed the feedback and found the experience of speaking to Improving Lives of high value.

**Items to be discussed at the next meeting:-**

**9<sup>th</sup> June, 2026**

- Kinship Local Offer Annual Update.
- Expert at Hand Model (Linked to the SEND Reform Plan).